

with that part of the Chilterns in the vicinity of Henley-on-Thames. This town lies at the meeting-point of three counties. The Thames in its windings here flows for a few miles in a general northerly direction: the country on its eastern side (where also there is an extension of the chalk hills) lies in Berkshire; the town of Henley, on the western bank, lies in a corner of Oxfordshire; while about a mile to the north of it, on the same side of the river, is the boundary of Bucks. Thus the very numerous walks to the north and west of the place, leading into the heart of the Chilterns, may lie either in Oxfordshire or Buckinghamshire.

The country in this part of the Chilterns is of the same general type as that described by Mr. Rowland-Brown. The hills form an escarpment, the steep slope of which, facing roughly north-west, lies six to eight miles distant from Henley. At the summit of this steep scarp they are naturally at their highest. A point in Bucks. not far from Watlington Hill is 837 feet above sea-level; while in Oxfordshire, a few miles to the south-west, a point near Nettlebed reaches 607 feet. On the steep face of the escarpment, too, are a number of the open spaces such as Mr. Rowland-Brown has described, covered with the wild chalk-hill flora and dotted with dwarf junipers. But it is not of the steep scarp that I wish to write so much as of that part of the much more gentle slope—facing roughly south-east—within about five miles of Henley; that is, seven or eight miles south of Mr. Bussey Bell's district. This area consists of plateaux and rounded chalk hills rising to elevations of between 300 and 500 feet and intersected by ramifying valleys, almost all of which, excepting the main valley of the Thames, are devoid of streams. Well may Mr. Rowland-Brown write that the one feature lacking in the otherwise diversified landscape is water. The hill-tops in many directions bear an almost unbroken succession of beech woods. Their steep sides are given up partly to pasture, partly to arable land; while here and there are open, abrupt slopes where the chalk-hill flora is left to flourish at will. Such places are covered with a profusion of flowers—marjoram (*Origanum*) and thyme, restharrow (*Ononis*), *Helianthemum*, *Hypericum*, hawkweeds, scabious, salad-burnet (*Poterium sanguisorba*), with *Gentiana* and *Chloris* in places, and many others; and are dotted with bushes of *Cornus*, *Viburnum*, &c. Add to this a number of gorse-covered commons on the hill-tops; plantations of larch and other conifers, mostly of recent date; occasional patches of hazel-copse; elms along many of the roadsides; and one has summarized the main features of a landscape as beautiful, in the writer's opinion, as any in England.

The subjoined notes represent the impression made by the butterfly fauna on an observer and entomologist who is *not* a special student or collector of butterflies. They are gleaned

largely from written general natural history notes kept during several years. Obviously they are very fragmentary, partly because my residence in the district has never been continuous over a whole season or year, but has consisted of shorter or longer stays at almost all seasons.

The butterflies have to some extent made an impression of relative scarcity, considering the nature of the country. Not that a complete list (which mine does not profess to be) would be by any means short, or uninteresting—for some of the species are not our commonest forms. But I can never recall meeting with butterflies in such profusion as I have sometimes seen in other parts of England. For instance, a walk across the South Downs near Worthing at the end of July, 1914, was enlivened by the presence of Fritillaries, Lycænids, *Pieris*, *Hipparchia semele*, &c., in numbers such as could hardly have failed to strike even a very casual observer. Such abundance as this I have never found in the district under review.

HESPERIIDÆ.

H. malvæ, *N. tages*, *A. sylvanus*, *A. flava* (= *thaumas*), all fairly common. I cannot recall ever having seen *A. comma*. Of written records, *H. malvæ* was seen June 6th, 1903, and in some numbers, June 26th, 1902. *N. tages*, in numbers, June 6th, 1903, while a single bad specimen was taken June 26th, 1902. *A. flava*, numbers of bright, fresh specimens were seen, July 25th, 1902; a female was taken August 8th, 1902; and a single female was captured some time in September, 1899.

LYCÆNIDÆ.

C. argiolus has appeared in greater or smaller numbers each spring, principally about gardens in the outskirts of Henley. Judging from my MS. notes, it was particularly plentiful in the spring of 1900: I recorded it that year as scarce from April 12th till about April 20th, afterwards common up till the time of my departure on May 1st; still common, May 26th-27th, reappearing in smaller numbers in July, and becoming gradually scarcer during August.*

A. corydon appears to be absent from the vicinity of Henley. Both Mr. Rowland-Brown and Mr. Bussey Bell record it as abundant in places on the steep north-western slopes of the escarpment, but the former writer states that only a few stragglers come over to the south. The heavily-wooded nature of the hills, and the much smaller extent and less down-like character of the vegetation of the open chalky hillsides, may account for its scarcity on the southern side.

* Frequently seen this year from the time of my arrival up to the time of correcting proofs, August 13th-26th.